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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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LATHROP & CLARK LLP
740 REGENT STREET SUITE 400
P.O. BOX 1507
MADISON, WI 537011507

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,424

Applicant(s)

MAKI, KARI M.

Examiner

Tan Dean D. Nguyen

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/6/2004 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed 6/15/2004 has been entered. Claims 12-18 are canceled. Claims 19, 20, 2-11 remain active.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 19, it's not clear the relationship between "information" and the last phrase "wherein data, video and/or audio signals .. service unit". Are they the same or different?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 19 (method¹), 20, 2-11 (method²) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (R¹) EP 0 822 473 in view of (R²) LAVIGNE and (R³) MOTOYAMA (US Patent 5,909,493) or further in view of (R⁴) EP 0 825 506.**

As for Independent method¹ claim 19, in a remote method and apparatus for maintenance process, EP 0 822 473 fairly discloses a method for servicing a production plant (industrial and manufacturing apparatus, i.e. manufacturer of semiconductor device) comprising the steps of:

a) gathering information related to the manufacturing processes and machinery equipments (106) of a production (or manufacturing) plant (102, 103, 104) by means of at least one information system and/or measurement unit and/or production control unit (equipments 106);

b) connecting a service system server (host computer 107 which inherently contains a file server) to a local information network (106, 109) of the production plant;

c) collecting informations from different systems (#106) of the production plant to the service system server (107);

d) sending the collected information from the production plant to a remote service unit (vendor unit) (108) wherein the information submitted from the production plant is collected and analyzed (Figs. 3-5),

f) isolating the information network of the service unit from the Internet by a firewall;

g) and transferring the information bi-directionally via the firewall between the production plant and the information network of the service unit in a secured format;

wherein data signal is transferred between the production plant and the service unit plant (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 4-58, col. 4, lines 3-48, col. 7, lines 22-26). As for the limitation of "from the group consisting of a paper mill,paper finishing plant ", it would have been obvious to apply the same teaching to other similar manufacturing facility, i.e, manufacturing pulp, paper or oil, etc., to obtain similar results, absent evidence of unexpected results. Note that the limitation in the preamble "from the group consisting of a paper mill,paper finishing plant" carries little patentable weight unless repeated in the body of the claim. The phrase "the production plant" is noted in the body but it's not clear whether this is related to the "pulp production plant" in the preamble, if it is, then the word "pulp production plant" must be inserted in the body of the claim.

Alternatively, the use of file server instead of peer-to-peer server or computer handle other information from other sources would have been obvious as using a highly special computer with larger storage to serve other computers using the network.

Therefore, EP 0 822 473 discloses the claimed invention except for (1) a production

Art Unit: 3629

plant selected from the group consisting of a paper mill, board mill, pulp production plant, and a paper finishing plant in the preamble and (2) isolating the internal information network of the production plant from the Internet by a firewall.

LAVIGNE is merely cited to teach well known and basis instrumentation applications for the pulp and paper industry (1979) wherein computer network are set up in a typical production plant, i.e. pulp mill or paper mill/board mill, and paper finishing plant comprising gathering information related to manufacturing processes and machinery of the production plant by at least one information system, measurement unit and production control unit wherein information is collected and analyzed {see Figs. 14-7, 14-8, 15-1, 15-2, 15-13, 15-14, 15-15, 16-1 (paper mill, paper machine, and finishing plant) and 16-4 (computer system, server)}. It would have been obvious to modify the teaching of EP 0 822 473 by replacing the manufacturing plant with other similar manufacturing plant, i.e. pulp and paper mill with all of the well known information system, measurement unit and production control unit wherein information is collected and analyzed for the mill and shown in a computer network system as taught by LAVIGNE above.

MOTOYAMA is cited to teach well known step or means for additional security measure used in connecting a computer network to the Internet a protective device known as firewall to allow only authorized computers/users to access a network or other computer via the Internet (see fire wall 14, fire wall 50, fire wall 40) (see Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to modify the process of EP 0 822 473 by providing a firewall to isolate the internal information network of the production plant

Art Unit: 3629

from the Internet to provide additional security measure as taught by MOTOYAMA above.

In a similar method and apparatus for remote process control, EP 0 825 506 discloses the use of a central information service system server (20) for collecting information from local information systems (measurement units, sensing devices, etc) (19a-19e) and responsible for establishing communications over the Internet network with remote service unit (col. 3, lines 40-50, col. 4, lines 15-55). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the process of EP 0 822 473/MOTOYAMA to include a central information service system server for collecting local information network of the production plant as taught by EP 0 825 506 for establishing communications over the network.

5. **As for Independent method² claim 20** which has the same steps (a)-(g) as in independent claim 19, it's rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 19 above and furthermore, the teachings of steps "(h) scheduling maintenance periods ... and (i) anticipating future needs of servicing based on the continuous data collection" are fairly taught in EP 0 822 473 in col. 10, lines 5-15 "troubles can be prevented in advance", Figs. 2, 3, and 6 "501 Trouble databases", col. 7, lines 10-15 "information as part of the trouble database can be disclosed to users (factories) and each user can access various kinds of past maintenance information through the Internet and employs an appropriate countermeasure against his own troubles" which normally involves scheduling proper downtime for maintenance or installing spare or new parts to avoid malfunctions. Note that the various maintenance scenarios and planning of operations

Art Unit: 3629

are within the skilled of the artisan in view of the general teachings and would have been obvious to a skilled artisan to modify the plans to suit each manufacturing facility.

As for the amended language, this is fairly taught in LAVIGNE as shown above. Alternatively, inclusion of any other well known systems in any manufacturing facility, maintenance information, machinery condition monitoring, and reporting system for reporting the data above, would have been obvious to a skilled artisan as mere inclusion of other well known plant control/monitoring parameters.

As for dep. claim 2 (part of 20), MOTOYAMA discloses the network (16) within the confines of firewall 14 prior to connecting to the Internet (10), therefore the disclosure of a similar setup of a firewall connected between the Internet and the system service server would have been obvious to avoid unauthorized access to the server from the Internet network.

As for dep. claim 3 (part of 20), the treating and processing of data are fairly taught in EP 0 822 473 Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 5-30.

As for dep. claim 4 (part of 20), the general limitation of securing the network using well known means such as password, ID addresses, or ID codes is fairly taught by EP 0 822 473 on col. 7, lines 23-35 or would have been obvious to an artisan.

As for dep. claim 5 (part of 20), this is inherently in the process of EP 0 822 473 wherein the host computer (108) is in the vendor's area which is normally remote from the manufacturing plant (see abstract, col. 6, lines 15-30, Fig. 4).

As for dep. claim 6 (part of 20), Fig. 1 discloses several factories, 102, 103, 104, see LAVIGNE Figs. 15-1, 15-14, 16-1.

As for dep. claim 7 (part of 20), this is inherently included in the system of EP 0 822 473/MOTOYAMA when the information is sent between the systems in a standard format.

As for dep. claim 8 (part of 20), the analysis step is taught in EP 0 822 473 Fig. 2, 3, 5.

As for dep. claims 9-10 (part of 20), the recommendation step is taught on Figs. 3-5 of EP 0 822 473.

As for dep. claim 11 (part of 20), the transfer of data signals are inherently included and taught in EP 0 822 473 col. 3 lines 5-55 or digital data processors 12, 14 of Fig. 1.

6. Claims 19, 20, 2-11 are rejected (2nd) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 822 473 in view of LAVIGNE and MOTOYAMA (or EP 0 825 506) and further in view of Article 8/1996.

As for independent claims 19, 20, the teachings of EP 0 822 473/LAVIGNE/MOTOYAMA/or EP 0 825 506 is cited above. Article 8/1996 is cited to show it's well known put the paper mill on the Internet to improve the efficiency of mill communication with the benefits of the Internet (Article 8/1996). It would have been obvious to modify the teaching of EP 0 822 473/LAVIGNE/MOTOYAMA or EP 0 825 506 by collecting information from other similar manufacturing or production plant such as pulp mill or paper mill for the benefit as cited in Article 8/1996.

As for dep. claims 2-11 (part of 20), they are rejected for the same reason set forth above.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 8/6/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The elements included are typical in any manufacturing facility for effective monitoring of the whole plant if desired, mere selection of other manufacturing product, from semiconductor to pulp or paper or oil or any other manufacturing facilities would have been obvious to a skilled artisan as mere applying the same process to other similar product to obtain similar results, absent evidence of unexpected results.

Applicant have not shown why it's not obvious to apply the teaching EP 0822473 to other industries.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. US Patent:

1) US Patent 5,632,859 and 6,024,835 discloses various manufacturing systems, control, maintenance, machinery conditions, etc. in a paper mill.

2. NPL:

1) Article "Fisher-Rosemount...Association Inc." is cited to teach the use of web site to allow user to see a virtual chemical plant, refiner, or pulp and paper mill.

Art Unit: 3629

9. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiner. As the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining Tech Center, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiner. See MPEP 203.08. The Tech Center clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1113 or <http://pair-direct-uspto.gov>.

In receiving an Office Action, it becomes apparent that certain documents are missing, e. g. copies of references, Forms PTO 1449, PTO-892, etc., requests for copies should be directed to Tech Center 3600 Customer Service at (703) 306-5771, or e-mail CustomerService3600@uspto.gov.


Any inquiry concerning the merits of the examination of the application should be directed to Dean Tan Nguyen at telephone number (703) 308-2053. My work schedule is normally Monday through Friday from 7:00 am through 4:30 pm.

Should I be unavailable during my normal working hours, my supervisor John Weiss may be reached at (703) 308-2702. The FAX phone numbers for formal communications concerning this application are (703) 872-9306. Informal communications may be made, following a telephone call to the examiner, by an informal FAX number to be given.

Other possibly helpful telephone numbers are:

Allowed Files & Publication	(703) 305-8322
Assignment Branch	(703) 308-9287
Certificates of Correction	(703) 305-8309
Drawing Corrections/Draftsman	(703) 305-8404/ 8335
Fee Questions	(703) 305-5125
Intellectual Property Questions	(703) 305-8217
Petitions/Special Programs	(703) 305-9282
Terminal Disclaimers	(703) 305-8408
Information Help Line	1-800-786-9199

dtn


DEAN T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER